

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Final Office Action dated May 24, 2007. Claim 1 has been amended, and Claim 8 has been canceled, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-7, 9-23 and 25-35 are now pending. As set forth herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 31-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,101 to Clark et al. ("Clark"). Claims 1-15, 17-23 and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Clark in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0205514 A1 to Sommerer et al. ("Sommerer"), and Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Clark in view of Sommerer and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,724 to Mander et al. ("Mander"). In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under § 103, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and the prior art reference(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP § 2143.) However, all of the claim elements cannot be found in the cited references, whether those references are considered alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims as anticipated by or obvious in view of the cited references are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant notes that the only claim amended by this paper is Claim 1, and that the amendment incorporates elements formerly recited by Claim 8. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Moreover, if the Examiner maintains the rejections of the claims, entry of

the amendment to Claim 1 is requested on the grounds that it places the application in better condition for appeal.

The invention as claimed displays a preview of a consequence of selecting a selectable item to a user. As recited by amended Claim 1, the selectable item is not a representation of a file, and the consequences of selecting that item that is previewed includes an operation that is performed on a file that is open in a computer program presenting the first selectable item. As set forth in Claim 17, the selection of the first selectable item performs an operation on a file that is open within an application that provides said first selectable item. Claim 31 specifies that the selectable item is associated with an application program, and that the consequence of selecting the selectable item performs an operation that does not include opening a file. Claim 34 recites displaying a depiction of the consequences of selecting at least a first selectable item, wherein the consequences of selecting the first selectable item do not include opening a file. As such elements are not taught, suggested or described by the cited references, the rejections of the claims as unpatentable in view of those references should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Clark reference is generally directed to a multi-level tool tip. In particular, when a user points to an area of interest in a graphical display on a computer monitor using a cursor, a first level of information is displayed. A subsequent level of information is then displayed if the user continues to point to that area of interest or if a selected key stroke is entered (Clark, abstract). In general, the tips provide textual explanations of an icon's function, or a demonstration of the function. (Clark, column 2, lines 30-63.) Accordingly, Clark is limited to presenting information describing a selected item or presenting an example of the effect of selecting an item. Clark does not teach, suggest or describe providing a preview of the actual

consequence of selecting an item. The failure of Clark to provide a preview of a consequence of selecting a selectable item is acknowledged by the Office Action. (See Final Office Action dated May 24, 2007, page 6.)

The Sommerer reference is generally directed to a hyperlink preview utility and method. In particular, Sommerer discusses displaying a preview of a target resource page associated with a linking control, such as a hyperlink or visit node. (Sommerer, paragraph 8.) According to Sommerer, the preview is displayed adjacent to the linking control and may display layout and content information to a user. (*Id.*) However, Sommerer does not teach, suggest or describe previewing a consequence of an operation performed on a file that is open in a computer program presenting an item that can be selected to perform the operation. Instead, Sommerer provides a preview of a resource page. Previewing a resource page is different than previewing the consequence of an operation on an open file that can be performed by selecting a selectable item.

For disclosure of the use of a projection line, the Office Action cites to Mander. Mander is generally directed to a method and apparatus for organizing information in a computer system. More particularly, Mander discusses providing a graphical representation of a document included in a pile or collection of documents represented by icons. By positioning the cursor at an item in the pile for a predetermined period of time, a proxy for the item positioned under the cursor is revealed. (Mander, column 3, lines 5-25.) Moreover, the indicia or proxy for the selected item can include an animated dicon [*sic* icon] of the digitized movie in that various frames of the movie may be displayed rapidly in sequence. (Mander, column 36, lines 46-55.) However, it is noted that Mander does not teach, suggest or describe the consequence of selecting an item other than an item representing a document or other file.

Accordingly, at least the following elements of the independent claims indicated by italicized text cannot be found in the cited references.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a visual representation of the consequences of taking an action, comprising:

first moving a cursor in response to input from a user;
first detecting a position of said cursor within an application window; and
in response to said position of said cursor corresponding to a first selectable item within said application window, *displaying a depiction of a consequence of selecting said first selectable item, wherein said first selectable item is not a representation of a file, and wherein said display includes a preview of a consequence of selecting said first selectable item, and wherein said consequence of selecting said first selectable item includes an operation that is performed on a file that is open in a computer program presenting said first selectable item.*

17. A computer implemented method, comprising:
determining a position of a cursor; and
in response to said position of said cursor hovering over a first selectable item, *displaying a preview of a consequence of selecting said first selectable item, wherein a selection of said first selectable item performs an operation on a file that is open within an application that provides said first selectable item.*

31. An apparatus for displaying a consequence of a selection to a user, comprising:
means for visually displaying;

means for receiving user input;

means for determining a position of a cursor, wherein said cursor is displayed by said

means for visually displaying and is responsive to said means for receiving user input;

means for determining a relationship between a position of a selectable item displayed by said means for visually displaying and said cursor; and

means for generating a depiction of a consequence of selecting said selectable item at least when said cursor is within an area occupied by said selectable item on said means for visually displaying, wherein said selectable item is associated with an application program, wherein said consequence of selecting said selectable item performs an operation, and wherein said operation does not include opening a file.

34. An apparatus for providing a depiction of the consequences of making a selection, comprising:

data storage, wherein at least a first application is maintained in said data storage;

a data processor operable to execute instructions included in said first application;

a visual display operable to display graphical elements generated in connection with said execution of said instructions included in said first application and operable to display a cursor;

a pointing device operable to receive commands from a user concerning a position of said cursor with respect to said graphical elements, *wherein a depiction of the consequences of selecting at least a first selectable item included in said graphical elements is displayed in response to detecting that said cursor is hovering over said at least a first selectable item, and wherein the consequences of selection said at least a first selectable item do not include opening a file.*

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that the rejections of the claims as anticipated by or obvious in view of the cited references should be reconsidered and withdrawn. The application therefore appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would be of assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

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